



L. King (I)

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1956, which is furnished in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 19/56 of the Ministry of Health.

I am very glad to report that the incidence of acute infectious disease during the year was less than in the previous year. The number of births showed no change but there was a small increase in the number of deaths.

I have to acknowledge assistance in the preparation of this Report and throughout the year by my colleagues, Mr.D.B.W. Dykes, Clerk to the Council; Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer; Mr. E.E. Jordan, Public Health Inspector and Surveyor; and Mr. K. Mills, Executive Officer.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support which has been given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

William Rogers

Medical Officer of Health.

16th October, 1957.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Mr. E.E. Jordan, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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Ledbury.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	49,867
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.56)	...	2,484
Rateable Value	...	£57,462
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£226. 1. Od.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	...	8,660

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (Crude)	...	17.1
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population	...	19.3
Stillbirth rate per 1000 total births (live and still)	...	Nil
Death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude)	...	10.9
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	...	10.0
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.13
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.92

Deaths from Maternal Causes

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total Births</u>
Heading No.30 Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	40.5
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	37.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	71.4

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern part of the County of Hereford, and can be regarded as a valley running in a north west - south east direction, with the Malvern Hills on the eastern border and the Marcle Hills on the west. The District is entirely agricultural in character.

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 8660, which is a small reduction on the figure for the previous year (8680). This population was accommodated in 2484 dwellings in 22 parishes comprising the Rural District. The average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.49 and the average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.05. The natural increase of population, that is the excess of live births over deaths, is 54.

During the month of September there is a temporary increase in the population when hops are harvested. This increase in population is diminishing as a result of the introduction of machinery for hop picking.

Births

The total number of live births for the year is 148 (78 male and 70 female). The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population is 17.1. The adjusted live birth rate is 19.3 per 1000 population. The live birth rate for the year 1956 for England and Wales is 15.7 per 1000 population. The local figures are almost identical with those for 1955.

The number of illegitimate live births is 14 (9 male and 5 female). Illegitimate live births formed 9.5% of all live births. Based upon the estimated population, the illegitimate live birth rate is 1.38 per 1000 population.

Stillbirths

No stillbirths were registered during the year.

Deaths

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Rural District is 94 (44 male and 50 female), after deducting the deaths of non-residents occurring within the District, and adding the deaths of residents occurring outside the area. The crude death rate is 10.9 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The number of deaths in 1955 was 88.

The adjusted death rate is 10.0 per 1000 population. The death rate for the year for England and Wales is 11.7 per 1000 population.

The most frequent cause of death was Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System (17) followed by all forms of heart disease (16) and then all forms of malignant disease which caused 15 deaths

Tuberculosis

Two deaths were caused by respiratory tuberculosis, giving a corrected local tuberculosis death rate of 0.212 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales from this cause is 0.121 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death according to Sex and Mortality Rates

List No.	Cause of Death	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 Popln.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	2	-	2	0.212
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	3	2	5	0.531
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	-	1	0.106
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	6	6	0.637
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	1	2	3	0.319
16.	Diabetes.	-	2	2	0.212
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	7	10	17	1.805
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	6	1	7	0.743
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1	0.106
20.	Other heart disease.	3	5	8	0.850
21.	Other circulatory disease.	3	1	4	0.425
23.	Pneumonia.	3	5	8	0.850
24.	Bronchitis.	3	4	7	0.743
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	1	2	0.212
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-	1	0.106
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1	0.106
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	1	1	0.106
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	1	2	0.212
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	4	5	9	0.956
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	3	2	5	0.531
34.	All other accidents.	-	1	1	0.106
35.	Suicide.	1	-	1	0.106
All Causes		44	50	94	9.980

Deaths due to Acute Notifiable Disease

Pneumonia was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as cause of death - 8 deaths (3 male and 5 female); giving a corrected local pneumonia death rate of 0.850 per 1000 estimated population.

Infant Mortality

Six deaths of children under the age of one year occurred; the infant mortality rate is therefore 40.5 per 1000 live births. This rate for England and Wales for 1956 is 23.8 per 1000 live births.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford, continued to provide facilities for examination of clinical and public health specimens. The following table shows the examinations made by the Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Blood	...	5
Swabs	...	60
Faeces	...	10
C.S. Fluid	...	2
Milk (Biological)	...	13
Milk (Methylene Blue Test)	...	59
Milk (Phosphatas Test)	...	37
Ice Cream	...	2
Water (Bacteriological)	...	53

In addition, one water sample and 14 samples of effluent were submitted to the Public Analysts.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance facilities are provided from the towns of Ledbury, Malvern and Hereford.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals within the Rural District, but the needs of the District are met by facilities provided in the general hospitals in Ledbury, Malvern, Hereford and Gloucester.

Accommodation for treatment of infectious disease is provided at Stretton Sugwas Hospital, Hereford, whilst some notifiable disease is treated at the County Hospital, Hereford.

Clinics

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held every fortnight in the parish of Colwall by a voluntary committee, with assistance from the Herefordshire County Council. A similar clinic, held at the Church Room, Ledbury is available to inhabitants of the Rural District.

Disposal of the Dead - National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50

No action was necessary by the Local Authority under this section during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

Three investigations were made under this section during the year. In all cases, no formal action was required; one person was admitted to hospital.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology

The western boundary of the Rural District is formed by a ridge of upper silurian limestone in the Woolhope and Much Marcle area, whilst the eastern boundary is formed by the Malvern Hills at Colwall and Eastnor. The geological formation of the Malvern Hills is complex but on the Ledbury side, upper silurian rocks seem to predominate. The Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System prevails between the hills in the east and west. Whilst a number of springs occur in the Malverns, the area is not well supplied with natural sources of water.

Water Supplies

The water supplies of the area are derived from numerous separate sources; there are public wells and spouts, private wells, small privately owned piped schemes and mains of Local Authorities. The only supplies in the ownership of the Council are public wells and spouts and a small piped supply at Woolhope.

The quality of the water consumed by the inhabitants shows considerable variation according to the nature of the supply. The number of samples of water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination was 53, and of these 16 showed the water not to be of good potable quality.

The water mains of the Malvern Urban District Council supply part of the parish of Colwall, whilst those of the Ledbury Urban District supply portions of the parishes of Eastnor, Ledbury Rural and Wellington Heath. These supplies are the only chlorinated supplies in the area. Two small privately owned piped supplies are also available in Colwall parish. Altogether about 630 dwellings are supplied from public mains by separate services.

There are other small piped schemes in operation in Eastnor (91 dwellings), Much Marcle (36 dwellings) and Tarrington (24 dwellings). In the parish of Wellington Heath, five dwellings are supplied by standpipe, and 7 are similarly supplied in Ledbury Rural Parish.

During the year, the mains of the Ledbury Urban District Council were extended to Parkway in Ledbury Rural parish and 14 dwellings were connected. There was no evidence of any potable water having a significant solvent action on metals.

No part of the District experienced shortage of water during 1956.

Drainage and Sewerage

The parish of Colwall is provided with a system of public sewers and sewage disposal works.

Eleven samples of effluent sent for chemical examination were satisfactory; one failed to comply with the Royal Commission standard.

Two samples of trade effluent were sent for examination.

There is a short length of public sewer in Bosbury parish which receives the drainage of a small number of dwellings.

The number of drain tests carried out by the Public Health Inspectors was 82. The number of new drains provided was 68, of these, 48 were in connection with dwelling houses. No extensions to public sewers were carried out during the year.

Rivers and Streams

The chief rivers flowing through the District are the Leadon, the Frome and the Cradley Brook. The Leadon, the largest stream in the area is a tributary of the river Severn. The Leadon shows evidence of pollution at times.

Closet Accommodation

It is estimated that one third of the dwelling houses in the Rural District are provided with water closets; about half use pail closets and the remainder use privies. In Colwall parish, with an adequate piped water supply, the proportion of water closets in use is about 91%.

Every effort to secure closet conversion is made, and during the year 6 privies were converted to water closets, 17 pail closets were converted to water closets and 1 privy was converted to a pail closet. In addition, 26 new water closets were provided.

Public Cleansing

The Council provides a regular collection of domestic refuse - a weekly collection in part of Colwall and fortnightly elsewhere. A motor vehicle is used and disposal is by tipping. About 80% of occupied dwellings receive the benefit of this service.

The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse, or the cleansing or emptying of cesspools and privies, other than those on its own property. The Council does not carry out street cleansing.

There are no public washhouses or baths situated within the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to the Public Health Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections

Accumulations	...	23
Animals	...	2
Ashbins and Ashpits	...	55
Bakehouses	...	7
Camping Sites	...	7
Caravans	...	7
Dairies	...	6
Drainage	...	103
Drain Tests	...	82
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	7
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	20
Food Handling Byelaws	...	3
Food Premises	...	28
Fruit and Hop Pickers' Quarters	...	99
Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	148
Housing (Other)	...	398
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	1
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	11
Infectious Disease	...	48
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	1
Offensive Smells	...	1

Inspections (continued)

Petroleum Stores	...	59
Schools	...	3
Sewage Disposal Works	...	110
Sewers	...	13
Sanitary Conveniences	...	8
Smoke Observations	...	6
Slaughterhouses	...	8
Swimming Baths and Pools	...	4
Unsound Food	...	14
Water Supply	...	133

Notices Issued

Informal	...	28
Statutory re Housing	...	Nil
Statutory under other Acts	...	1

Summary of Defects Remedied

Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	...	6
Ditches cleared	...	1
Drains & Gullies cleared	...	3
New drains provided	...	68
Defective floors repaired	...	2
Defective roofs repaired	...	1
Defective eaves gutters repaired	...	3
Defective brickwork repaired	...	2
Disinfections after infectious		
Disease	...	9
Defective windows repaired	...	1
Defective chimneys repaired	...	1
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	...	1
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	...	4
Dairies reconstructed	...	2
New Gullies provided	...	13
Privies converted to water closets	...	6
New sinks provided	...	9
Sanitary Fittings provided	...	39
New Urinals provided	...	1
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	14
Water supplies provided	...	3
Miscellaneous Defects remedied	...	1

Swimming Baths and Pools

There were three swimming pools open to the public within the District during the year. All are equipped with circulation and filtration apparatus.

Four samples of swimming pool water submitted for bacteriological examination were found to be satisfactory.

Hop and Fruit Pickers's Quarters

The cultivation of hops is an important aspect of agriculture in the District. It is customary for hop pickers to move into the area at the beginning of September. The use of machinery for stripping is increasing, and was used by 37 growers. Some hop pickers provide their own accommodation by means of caravan or tent; for others accommodation is provided by growers.

These lodgings are controlled by the Rural District Council's Byelaws. Lodgings were provided on 47 different premises. The standard of accommodation provided showed some improvement on that of the previous year.

The number of inspections of hop pickers's quarters made under the Byelaws was 99.

Camping Sites. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269

No licences for camping sites were granted by the Council under this section. Camping within the area is limited and it presents no major health problems. Eastnor Park is used as a camping ground during the summer months by members of bodies exempt under sub-section 6 of this section. The maximum number of campers at any time during the year is estimated not to exceed 100.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Rural District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No dwelling houses within the District were found to be infested with bed-bugs and no action was required by the Department.

Shops and Offices

No formal action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with these premises.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

At the end of the year there were four factories without mechanical power, and twentyfour with mechanical power, registered with the Local Authority.

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority at the present time.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1956, for the Rural District of Ledbury in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	4	7	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	24	23	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises).	18	22	2	-
Total	46	52	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
Sanitary Conveniences. Insufficient.	2	2	-	-	-

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs a Pest Officer jointly with the Hereford Rural District Council and the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District Council. The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

	Premises inspected.	Total Infestations.	Rats		Mice.	No. of properties treated.	Statutory Notices
			Major	Minor			
Local Authorities' Properties.	16	11	2	9	-	10	-
Dwelling Houses	64	39	-	37	2	-	-
Agricultural Properties	65	37	-	37	-	-	-
All other (including business) premises	9	4	-	4	-	-	-
Total	154	91	2	87	2	10	-

SECTION D - HOUSINGNew Dwellings

No Council houses were completed, or under construction, during the year. Private persons completed 9 new dwellings and a further 14 were under construction at the end of the year.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	148
2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	3
3.	Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	40

Houses demolished or closed during the Year

1.	Housing Act 1936.		
(a)	Demolished as a result of informal procedure (Section 11).	...	1
(b)	Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force.	...	1
(c)	Parts of building closed (Section 12)	...	Nil
2.	Housing Act 1949		
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 3 (1) and 3 (2)	...	Nil
3.	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.		
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10 (1) and 11 (2)	...	Nil

Houses repaired during the Year

1.	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts.	...	18
2.	Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice		
	Houses in which defects were remedied		
(a)	By Owners	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil
3.	Housing Act 1936 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)		
	Houses made fit		
(a)	By Owners	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil

Houses repaired during the Year (continued)

4.	Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	...	Nil
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Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	9
(b)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	1
(c)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	1
(d)	Dwelling houses which have again become overcrowded after steps by the Local Authority for abatement	...	Nil

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949

Section 20 (a)	The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings	...	Nil
(b)	The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings	...	14

Overcrowding - Housing Act 1936 - Part IV

At the beginning of the year 9 dwellings were known to be overcrowded within the meaning of Section 58 of the Housing Act, 1936.

During the year 1 new case was found, but it was possible to relieve 1 case, so that the position at the end of the year remained unchanged.

Overcrowding is not a serious problem.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

At the end of the year 12 distributors were registered with the Council. There are no plants for pasteurisation of milk or factories for processing of milk within the area. Ten licences were issued by the Council for the sale of tuberculin tested milk and 11 for the sale of pasteurised milk. One licence was issued for the sale of sterilised milk. The number of dairy inspections made was six.

Thirteen samples of milk were sent for biological examination and all were satisfactory. One sample taken in another District was reported as positive for tuberculosis. A notice was served under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, requiring milk to be pasteurised before being sold for human consumption.

Twentythree samples of tuberculin tested milk were submitted for examination, and 2 of these failed to comply with the test. Thirtysix samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for examination and were found to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream - Food and Drugs Act 1938, Sections 14 and 16

Sixteen premises were registered with the Local Authority for the storage and sale of ice cream, and one registered for the manufacture of ice cream. No action was necessary by the Department in connection with any of these premises. The number of inspections made during the year was 11. The manufacturer registered uses a complete cold mix. Two samples of ice cream submitted for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

Water Cress

No action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with this food. The sale of water cress would appear to be small as it grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the area.

Shell Fish

The sale of shell fish within the District is very small and no action was required during the year.

Slaughterhouses

Two slaughterhouses were licensed by the Council.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and Slaughter of Animals Amendment Act, 1954

Eleven slaughterman's licences were issued by the Council during the year.

Eight of these were for the slaughter of cattle, sheep and pigs, one for sheep and pigs only and one for cattle, sheep, pigs and horses.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part						
	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	60	-	3	430	54	-
Number inspected	56	-	3	390	54	-
<u>All diseases</u>						
<u>except</u>						
<u>Tuberculosis</u>						
<u>& Cysticerci</u>						
<u>Whole</u>						
Carcases condemned	4	-	-	3	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	5	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	16.1	-	-	1.3	1.8	-
<u>Tuberculosis</u>						
<u>only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	5.5	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Unsound Food

The following table shows the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
3	Sheep Livers	Distoma
3	Ox Livers	Abscess
1	Ox Liver	Cysts
2 parts	Sheep Livers	Distoma
1	Ox Liver	Distoma
1 part	Ox Liver	Cirrhosis
1	Pig Lungs	Pneumonia
3 lbs.	Beef	Trauma
2 parts	Ox Liver	Distoma
3	Pig Lungs	Tuberculosis
4 lbs.	Lamb	Trauma
2 Tins	Ox Tongue	Damaged tins
1 tin	Corned Beef	Damaged tin
24 tins	Pears	Damaged tins
16 tins	Whole Chicken	Blown tins
8 tins	Pears	Blown tins

were examined

951 cases of 2 x 28 lb. tins of apricot pulp/and 564 tins found to be unfit for human consumption.

All unsound food is dealt with by burying or burning at the refuse tip.

There are two jam factories, two fruit and vegetable canning factories, two soft drink factories and a factory for the manufacture of cider and perry situated within the area. The number of inspections of premises registered with the Local Authority under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act 1955 was 28. Conditions were found to be satisfactory at these premises.

Byelaws as to Handling, etc. of Food

No contravention of these Byelaws was found at any time during the year. There are no food markets held within the Rural District, but the Byelaws have secured improvement in the handling and wrapping of food.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning occurred during the year.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of notifications of acute infectious disease received during the year was 109, which is 23 less than in the previous year, and 84 of these were received in the first six months of the year. The notification rate for acute disease was 12.6 notifications per 1000 estimated population. As a result of the co-operation of the medical practitioners of the District, the efficiency of notification is high. Throughout the year, the Rural District remained free from :- acute poliomyelitis, diphtheria, dysentery and enteric fevers.

Measles

The number of notified cases was 69, giving a measles notification rate of 7.96 per 1000 estimated population. The second quarter was the period of greatest incidence and after the middle of the year the disease disappeared. The age group showing the maximum incidence was the over 5 years and under 10 years group. The number of males affected was greater than the number of females, the ratio being 41:28

The first case occurred in January in a residential school and a further 21 cases were notified from the school. Another single case also occurred in a residential school but no further cases developed in that establishment. The disease then disappeared from the District but re-appeared in May. There were thus two distinct waves of infection - twentythree cases in the first quarter and fortysix cases in May and June. The number of premises involved was 35, and the parishes involved were Colwall, Canon Frome, Bosbury, Ashperton, Stretton Grandison and Munsley. A clear history of contact with a previous case was obtained in 35 instances.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter

Disease	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Year.
Scarlet Fever	4	2	-	-	6
Measles.	23	44	2	-	69
Acute Encephalitis (Infective).	-	-	-	19	19
Whooping Cough	7	3	4	-	14
Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	1
All Diseases	35	49	6	19	109

Whooping Cough

Altogether 14 notifications of whooping cough were received. The incidence was greatest in the first quarter of the year, thereafter the disease diminished and disappeared before the final quarter opened. The notification rate was 1.6 notifications per 1000 population. There was no localisation in respect of whooping cough; isolated cases occurred at widely separated parts of the Rural District with no connection between them.

Acute Meningo-encephalitis

In October, a small outbreak of Meningo-encephalitis associated with Bornholm Disease occurred in the Stretton Grandison and Eggleton areas. An excellent account of this was published in the British Medical Journal of the 6th April, 1957 by Drs. H.G. and D.M. Langdale-Smith and B.R. Wilkinson. Altogether 20 cases of encephalitis occurred and the infection seemed to be centred around Stretton Grandison School. The disease was associated with Bornholm Disease. The path of infection was never really defined but it is thought it may have originated from similar cases in another area, and it appeared that it spread from case to case. From 10 cases a virus related to ECHO virus type 9 was obtained. Whilst this disease is mild with complete recovery in all cases, it is important as in the early stages it simulates acute poliomyelitis. The incidence rate was 2.3 notifications per 1000 population.

Scarlet Fever

There was a small outbreak of scarlet fever in Colwall parish which began in March and was not finally controlled until May. Altogether 6 cases occurred in persons under 20 years of age. The incidence rate is 0.69 notifications per 1000 estimated population.

Pneumonia

Only one notification of pneumonia was received, although 8 deaths were attributed to the disease. Pneumonia was the only acute infectious disease which resulted in death.

Analysis of notified cases according
to certain Age Groups

Disease	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Year.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	6
Measles	2	4	6	43	12	2	-	-	-	-	69
Whooping Cough	2	2	1	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	14
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	-	-	-	13	2	2	1	1	-	-	19
Total	4	6	7	64	7	6	1	1	-	-	109

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 84 cases of tuberculosis on the Register (67 respiratory and 17 non-respiratory). During the year 13 cases (respiratory) were added. Of these, 8 cases were new infections. The number of cases removed from the Register during the year was 12 (9 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory). At the end of the year, therefore, 79 cases remained on the Register (65 respiratory and 14 non-respiratory).

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1956

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	6	2	-	-	2	-.	-	-

Two deaths were attributed to respiratory tuberculosis, giving a corrected death rate from tuberculosis of 0.212 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales for 1956 is 0.121 per 1000 population for all forms of tuberculosis.

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